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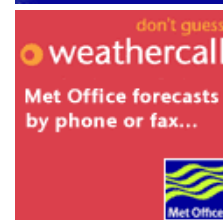
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21 September 2001

As Stirling prepares to host the 'Boots Across Scotland, National Mountain Safety Day' event on Saturday 22 September, the Met Office announces its new, essential product for mountain walkers: web cam images, available through the Met Office web site.

The web cam images, located at www.metoffice.com/weather/europe/uk/webcam/index.html, provide a snapshot of weather conditions for walkers across four chosen sites: Aboyne, Aviemore, Eskdalemuir and Loch Glascarnoch.

Together with the Scottish Executive, the Met Office has installed the web cams to help walkers to prepare and plan ahead for weather conditions. Users of the web site also have access to regional forecasts, a summary of the weather over the last 24 hours, and the latest picture from the area selected.

This will be the second National Mountain Safety Day organised by Boots Across Scotland; the aim is to promote safe hiking and walking in Scotland. There will be a number of stands and exhibitors at the event and the Met Office will be there demonstrating the hiking web cams.

"Visitors to the stand will be able to see and hear more about the work of the Met Office and how it relates closely to public safety. Their views may also contribute to future web cam pages," said Don MacLeod, Account Manager, Public Met Service, who will be representing the Met Office at the event.

Updated regularly, the web cams allow the user to view the area's weather as well as information about visibility, wind direction and pressure - all major issues for walking conditions and public safety. The local observations can also be viewed in graphical form. The Met Office plans to introduce images from more sites in other areas; these will be added to the web site as they become available.

Take a virtual hike!

Notes:

The 'Boots Across Scotland' event is taking place on Saturday 22nd of September at the Albert Hall in Stirling

Boots exists in the main to help and support injured hillwalkers and climbers, from the provision of specialised seating and wheelchairs to a specially adapted caravanette. The National Mountain Safety Day event is to heighten awareness on the safety aspects of hiking and prevent accidents happening.

For further information:

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